

REMARKS

The application includes claims 1, 3-9, 11, and 13-23 prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner rejected claims 15 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated over Zuqert et al. (U.S. Patent 6,466,832).

The examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Zuqert in view of Serra et al. (U.S. Patent 5,536,902).

The examiner allowed claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13, 14, 19, and 20.

The examiner indicated allowable claims 16-18 and 22 if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

The applicants amend claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 15, 17, 19-21, and 23 and cancels claims 16 and 22 without prejudice.

The application remains with claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13-15, 17-21, and 23 after entering this amendment.

The applicants do not add new matter and respectfully request reconsideration.

Claims Allowed

The applicants thank examiner Panwalkar for allowing claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13, 14, 19, and 20 and indicating allowable claims 16-18 and 22. The applicants rewrite claims 15 and 21 to include language similar to that of allowable claims 16 and 22, respectively. Claim 15 and dependent claims 17 and 18 should be in condition for the examiner's allowance. Similarly, claim 21 and dependent claim 23 should be in condition for the examiner's allowance.

Claim Rejections Under §§ 102 and 103

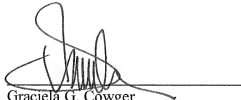
The examiner rejected claims 15 and 21 under § 102(e) as being anticipated over Zuqert. The examiner rejected claim 23 under § 103(a) over Zuqert in view of Serra. Although the applicants disagree with the examiner's rejections, they have nonetheless amended claims 15 and 21 to place them in condition for the examiner's allowance and speed prosecution.

Conclusion

The applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13-15, 17-21, and 23 are either allowed or in condition for allowance. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone if a conference would speed prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,
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